

## **Information Services Board Briefing Paper on the new ISB Geographic Information Technology Subcommittee**

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### **Description**

The Department of Information Services will provide a status report on the formation of the new Information Services Board Geographic Information Technology Subcommittee.

### **Background**

At the December 2001 ISB meeting, the Chair, Everett Billingslea, invited interested board members and DIS staff to launch the newly authorized ISB Subcommittee on Geographic Information Technology. The Subcommittee was created at the recommendation of DIS and, at the request of the Washington State Geographic Information Council (WAGIC).

Since the early '90's, WAGIC has served as a voluntary technical forum for state, federal, and local jurisdictions to jointly explore common solutions to shared geographic information technology issues. Though WAGIC has made progress on enterprise wide coordination and standards, it has lacked two key ingredients; executive leadership and commitment and, a formal connection to the state's IT policy setting body. DIS and the WAGIC community sought to address these issues by establishing a formal subcommittee relationship with the Information Services Board.

Geographic information systems are mission critical IT components in a number of state agencies IT Portfolio's. The technology integrates common computer capabilities such as query and statistical analysis with the unique visualization and geographic analysis capabilities of maps. The technology is widely used in such diverse fields as; natural resource and environmental management, public health and safety, emergency management, transportation planning and, energy production and distribution. Successful application of the technology depends on widespread availability of standards-based, fundamental data themes. From a statewide enterprise perspective, the most cost effective way to create these data themes is through a 'build it once use by many' approach.

Policy and standards play a fundamental role in promoting geographic information access and availability. The new ISB subcommittee will make policy and standards recommendations relating to geographic information technology to the ISB for consideration and adoption as state Information Technology Policy.

### **Status**

The ISB Chair invited eleven organizations to participate in the Subcommittee. Participating ISB members include; Tom Fitzsimmons, Gary Robinson, Representative Glenn Anderson and Emilio Cantu. Additionally, the following organizations appointed executives to participate: Departments of; Natural Resources, Health, Military, Fish and Wildlife, Transportation, Regional Office of U.S. Geologic Survey and the WAGIC Chair. Additional representation will be sought from Tribal and local government sectors.

In preparation for the initial Subcommittee meeting DIS and agency staff provided individual pre-briefings for the Subcommittee members.

On March 26<sup>th</sup> the Subcommittee met for the first of what are scheduled to be quarterly meetings. All invited organizations were present. The meeting was chaired by Gary Robinson,

DIS. After member introductions, the Subcommittee was presented with; an overview of WAGIC activities related to data and standards, a draft charter, and a proposed concept for a coordinated budget request. The coordinated budget proposal is founded on the desire to collaborate across agencies to meet common information needs.

After some discussion, which resulted in several clarifying amendments, the subcommittee adopted a charter that outlines the following purpose and goals:

**Purpose** The Subcommittee will represent the strategic interest of a coordinated, enterprise approach to utilizing geographic information technology and, provide leadership for implementation of cost effective, collaboratively developed, spatial data management solutions.

**Goals** The goals of the Geographic Information Technology Subcommittee are:

- a. Promote geographic information technology coordination and statewide integration.
- b. Develop strategy for state, local, regional, federal, and tribal jurisdiction participation.
- c. Develop policy and standards recommendations regarding geographic information technology for consideration and adoption by ISB as state policy.
- d. Develop strategy and process to accelerate implementation of the fundamental, commonly needed, statewide geographic data themes.
- e. Seek funding support for an enterprise wide, coordinated approach to geographic information acquisition, management, access, and distribution.

The Subcommittee has asked staff to provide more detailed information about the proposed cross-agency, coordinated budget request for the 03-05 Biennium. Staff will explore options and make information available for action at the next schedule Subcommittee meeting, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2002.

### Issues

A high level twelve-month work plan was presented during member pre-briefings that sets the stage to discuss and make recommendations on the following opportunities and issues:

- Coordinated state agency budget request to meet a fundamental, prioritized, cross-agency information need;
- Update and extend the 1999 WAGIC Strategic Plan for Geographic Information Infrastructure to accelerate implementation of the fundamental, commonly needed, statewide geographic data themes; and,
- Identify initial set of policy recommendations that will provide the foundation for a coordinated approach to geographic information acquisition, management, access and distribution.

### Recommendation

This briefing is for informational purposes only.